

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS AS AMENDED

1. (currently amended) A composition for detecting β -1,3-glucan in the presence of calcium ions, prepared by the method comprising:

(i) collecting a sample comprising a mixture of plasma and hemocyte lysate from ~~an insect~~ *Tenebrio molitor* or *Holotrichia diomphalia*;

(ii) treating said sample with a solvent or buffer solution containing a sufficient amount of a chelating agent to chelate calcium ions present in said sample and during a chromatography process to obtain fractions therefrom; and

(iii) selecting fractions exhibiting phenoloxidase activity by β -1,3-glucan in the presence of calcium ions from the obtained fractions.

2. (previously presented) A composition for detecting β -1,3-glucan according to claim 1 wherein the composition detects β -1,3-glucan concentrations as low as 20 pg/ml in the presence of calcium ions.

3.-20. (canceled)

21. (currently amended) A composition for detecting β -1,3-glucan exhibiting phenoloxidase activity by β -1,3-glucan in the presence of calcium ions, said composition prepared by:

(i) treating ~~insect~~ *Tenebrio molitor* or *Holotrichia diomphalia* plasma with a solvent or buffer solution containing a sufficient amount of a chelating agent to chelate calcium ions present in the plasma and

(ii) separating said chelated plasma by chromatography to obtain fractions from said chelated plasma;

(iii) adding hemocyte lysate or partially purified hemocyte lysate to said fractions to form lysate treated fractions, and

(iv) selecting lysate treated fractions exhibiting phenoloxidase activity by β -1,3-glucan in the presence of calcium ions.

22.- 24. (canceled)

* * * * *